

## State of Utah DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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December 4, 1998

TO:

Minerals File

FROM:

Lynn Kunzler, Reclamation Specialist

RE:

Site Inspection, All Gypsum Corporation, Dry Creek Mine, S/021/026, Iron County, Utah

Date of Inspection:

October 29, 1998

Time of Inspection:

7:15 am

Conditions:

Cool and cloudy, Recent rain

Participants:

Wayne Hedberg and Lynn Kunzler, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection:

To evaluate current site conditions at the site.

Due to recent precipitation at this site making conditions quite muddy, we parked the vehicle by the highway and walked in. There was a locked cable gate at the lower end. New surface disturbance has occurred since the last site inspection. The gypsum outcrop has opened up and sampled, new pads have been created and/or expanded, access roads have been developed and/or expanded, and some topsoil has been stockpiled. The disturbed area was estimated at approximately 3.5+ acres, as determined by pacing. This site still meets the criteria for a small mining operation.

It was evident that there had been recent activity at this site due to the freshness of the heavy equipment tracks. There also was a 980 Caterpillar front-end loader parked on the mine site. There was also evidence of recent localized flooding and erosion at the site due to recent heavy precipitation events (later it was determined that there had been a significant snowfall followed by a substantial rain resulting in localized flooding). It appeared that recent mine activity (post flooding) involved some repair work to the ephemeral drainage channel on the western side of the disturbed area. This channel still needs some additional recontouring work performed to better define the channel so that future flooding across the disturbed area(s) does not occur. Of particular concern is the more southern segments of the channel which traverse the lower pad/loadout area below the topsoil stockpile. We noted that there had also been some repair work done on the main Dry Creek channel to the east of the site. This work appeared to have been completed in a satisfactory manner.

Another erosional concern observed at this site was the location of the topsoil stockpile. Presently this stockpile is situated next to the lower access road along the western edge of the disturbed area. It is located immediately adjacent to the drainage channel along the western edge of the disturbed area. The drainage channel in this location is a narrow, deep gully (about 2 feet wide and several feet deep). It was apparent that some of the topsoil has been sloughing off the stockpile and into the drainage where it has been washed away. It is recommended that the topsoil stockpile be moved further away from the drainage, or be armored and bermed in some fashion so that no more topsoil is lost. The topsoil stockpile should also be seeded with cover crop of grasses and forbs to stabilize the pile from erosion (both water and wind) if it is to remain unused for an extended period of time.

The drainage repairs on the southwestern side of the disturbed area need to be completed and the topsoil stockpile moved away from the drainage (or otherwise protected from further erosion into the drainage) as soon as practicable.

cc:

Jim Fain, Operator

York Jones (228 S 800 W, Cedar City, UT 84720)